

Transfection

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The term transfection is used differently by bacterial geneticists and animal cell biologists. Both usages describe processes where a DNA fragment is introduced into a cell and the gene or genes it carries are expressed. In bacteria this general process is called transformation, and transfection refers to the special case where bacterial cells are transformed with DNA from an infectious bacterial virus (a bacteriophage), to produce an infected cell. In tissue culture of animal cells, transfection refers to any process that artificially introduces DNA into cultured cells.

See also: 0105, 1527